

skin smooth and clean. It is stated further to be soothing in irritable conditions of the skin.

CRÈME DE MENTHE.

(GET FRÈRES, REVEL, FRANCE; AGENCY, B. LAURIEZ, PARIS, AND 6, FENCHURCH-BUILDINGS, LONDON, E.C.)

For all intents and purposes this is a liqueur. It is a delicately green coloured and somewhat syrupy fluid with an agreeable flavour of oil of peppermint. Analysis gave the following results: alcohol, by weight 23·62 per cent., by volume 28·77 per cent., equal to proof spirit 50·41 per cent.; solid constituents, 48·83 per cent.; and mineral matter, 0·02 per cent. We think the quantity of sugar might be reduced with advantage as practically all the solid constituents consist of sugar, that is nearly 50 per cent. The sugar readily crystallised on exposure of the liqueur to dry air. The liqueur is a pleasant carminative and stimulant by virtue of the spirit and the oil of peppermint contained in it. Oil of peppermint, moreover, has decided antiseptic power, so that it serves as an anti-fermentative in dyspepsia.

THERAPEUTIC YEAST.

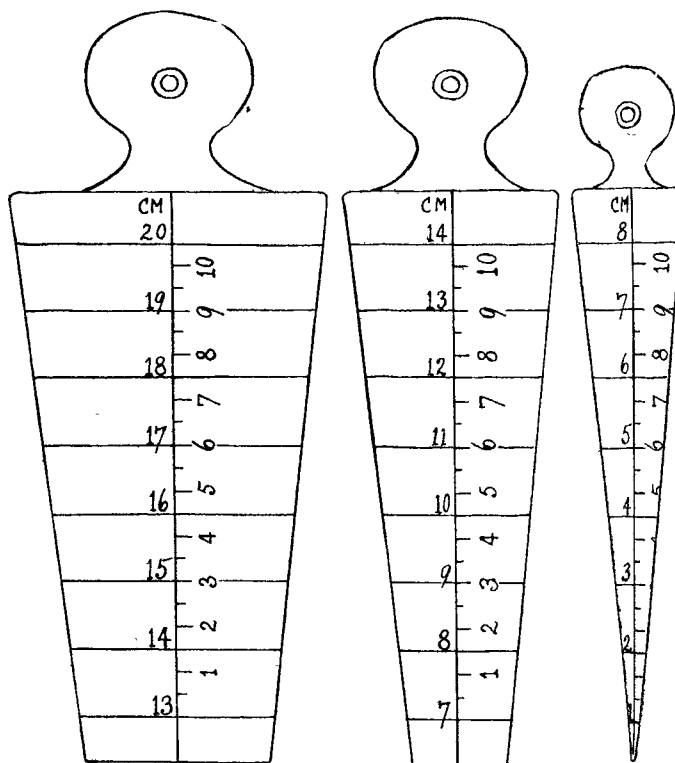
With reference to a notice which appeared under the above heading in THE LANCET of June 17th, 1905, Professor E. Jacquemin of Malzéville, near Nancy, who introduced the pure grape ferment there described (Messrs. Cooper and Co. of 80, Gloucester-road, London, S.W., acting as agents), issues in a communication which has reached us a warning note to the medical profession as to imitations which he states are being offered. He emphasises the importance of employing for therapeutic purposes the pure ferment of the grape only and states that neither the Pasteur Institute nor the late M. Pasteur has been, or is, in any way associated with these products, as might be implied from the way in which the name of the late distinguished *savant* is being connected with them.

New Inventions.

CONES FOR MEASURING THE CIRCUMFERENCE OF ORIFICES.

IN the course of post-mortem examinations occasions arise when one has to measure accurately the size of orifices in the heart and elsewhere. In the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh cones indicating the diameters in inches have been used for many years for this purpose. These are admittedly unsatisfactory, as in calculating the circumferential measurements from the diameters any error which has crept in, for example, through stretching of the orifice, is multiplied $3\frac{1}{2}$ times. Other means have been adopted—e.g., metal balls of different sizes, and I believe that on the continent cones similar to those I figure have been employed, but I have been unable to obtain either specimens or descriptions of them. Professor W. S. Greenfield of Edinburgh has a cone of this kind which was made for him 25 or 30 years ago, but owing to its wide angle and close markings it is somewhat difficult to use. To supply this want and to obviate these objections I have designed the cones figured in the sketch which is drawn to a scale of one-half the actual size. The sides of the cones are inclined to each other at an angle of 12° , this facilitating their introduction and making for accuracy in the measurements taken. The transverse lines drawn round the cones indicate circumferential measurements in centimetres. These lines are one and a half centimetres apart. To show this a line divided into centimetres is drawn from base to apex of each cone crossing the transverse lines. A longitudinal scale is thus furnished which is useful in localising exactly the site of constriction, for example, in funnel-shaped openings. On the other side of the longitudinal line marks were introduced in the case of the first cones made, dividing the distance between the transverse lines into fifths, thus enabling circumferential measurements to be recorded in fractions of

centimetres if required. These have been omitted in the sketch. I have tested the various measurements and find them to be very accurate. The cones are solid, being made of boxwood.



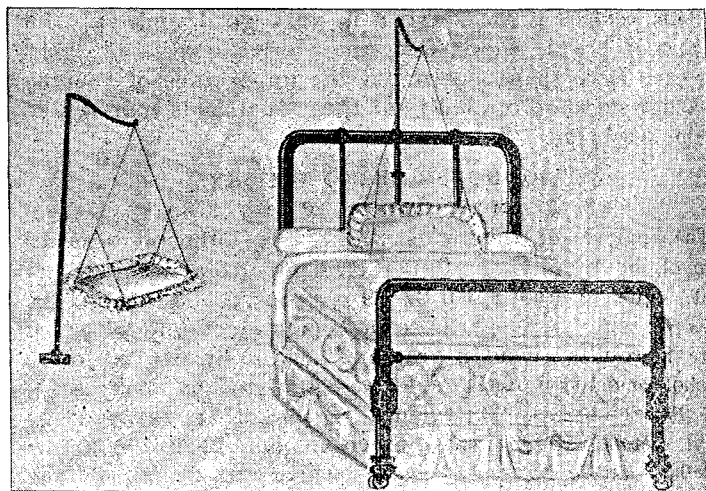
Cones for measuring circumference of openings.

I have to thank Messrs. Archibald Young and Son, Forrest-road, Edinburgh, for the care and patience with which they have carried out my designs and also for furnishing the block illustrating this note.

THEODORE SHENNAN, M.D., F.R.C.S. Edin.,
Pathologist at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

THE GRAHAM HEAD AND SHOULDER SUPPORT.

WE have received from Mrs. Frances Furnivall, of 13, Fawe Park-road, Putney, an illustration and short description of a head and shoulder rest which, she states, can be adjusted to any form of bedstead in a few minutes and affords rest and ease to the bedridden and to those confined to bed for a period through suffering. It consists of a metal rod having very much the appearance of the figure 7 which is clamped to one of the perpendicular rods



at the head of the bedstead. From the projecting portion or "head" of the 7 depend two inverted Y-slugs holding a support for a pillow. This device no doubt allows of easy movement of the head but we have not tried the apparatus itself. The price of the head and shoulder rest is £1 1s.